

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [00050] as follows:

[00050] More recently, present co-inventors Dahl and Carlson filed a series of United States patent applications in which they described the isolation, identification and characterization of a large number of individual higher diamondoids ranging from all four possible tetramantanes through undecamantane.

See for example:

USSN's:⁴² 10/012,333, now U.S. Patent No. 6,843,851, issued January 18, 1005;
⁴³ 10/012,334, now U.S. Patent No. 6,828,469, issued December 7, 2004;
⁴⁴ 10/012,335, now U.S. Patent No. 7,094,937, issued August 22, 2006;
⁴⁵ 10/012,336, now U.S. Patent No. 6,743,290, issued June 1, 2004;
⁴⁶ 10/012,337, now U.S. Patent No. 7,034,194, issued April 25, 2006;
⁴⁷ 10/012,545, now U.S. Patent No. 6,815,569, issued November 9, 2004;
⁴⁸ 10/012,546, now U.S. Patent No. 6,831,202, issued December 14, 2004;
⁴⁹ 10/012,547]
^{50]} ⁴⁹ 10/012,704, now U.S. Patent No. 6,812,370, issued November 2, 2004;
^{51]} ⁵⁰ 10/012,709, now U.S. Patent No. 6,812,371, issued November 2, 2004; and
^{52]} ⁵¹ 10/017,821[; and], now U.S. Patent No. 6,844,477, issued January 18, 2005; all filed on December 12, 2001; and
^{53]} ⁵² 10/046,486[;], filed January 16, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,858,700, issued February 22, 2005; and
USSN⁵³ 10/052,636 filed on January 17, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,861,569, issued March 1, 2005, ~~all filed on December 12, 2001 and~~ USSN⁵⁴ 10/052,636 ~~filed on January 17, 2002~~ and all incorporated herein by reference. These patent applications describe how the higher diamondoids were isolated from petroleum feedstocks such as deep reservoir oils and gas condensates. The concentrations of higher diamondoids in these feedstocks were reported to be quite low, generally in the parts per thousand to parts per billion range. In addition, the relative concentrations of the various higher diamondoids were found to decrease rapidly as the size of the diamondoids increased. The other components of the feedstocks

included nondiamondoids including nondiamondoid hydrocarbons, sulfur-containing materials and metal-containing materials and lower diamondoids.